

## **The effect of drug therapy on the the executive function in patients with OCD**

### **Abstract**

Background and objective: Despite the high prevalence of obsessive-compulsive disorder and its many problems, treatment is not very effective and most of the patients are resistant to current treatments. The aim of this study is to evaluate the efficacy of drug therapy on the performance of OCD in patients with OCD.

Methods: In a quasi-experimental design with pretest-posttest design with control group, 30 patients with obsessive-compulsive disorder in Fatemi Hospital in 1996-96 based on DSM-5 criteria and based on SCID And with the psychiatrist's opinion, they were randomly assigned to 2 groups. The sampling method is available and the sample size is 15 in each group, according to similar studies. The intervention and control group responded to the WCST, Yale-Brown and WMS questionnaires for evaluation of executive functions before any treatment action was taken. Tests for groups were performed for 45 to one hour. Then, the subjects in the test group received a commonly used medication for treatment-like-as-usual (TAU) medication for 4 months according to the protocol. And again, after the waiting period, both groups responded to Yale-Brown, WCS, and WMS tests. According to the sampling method and the number of subjects in each group, the descriptive and inferential nonparametric chi-square, Mann-Whitney and carcass-Wallis statistical methods were used for data analysis.

Results: Based on the results of the findings, there was no significant difference between the scores of behavioral inhibition, cognitive impairment, short-term memory, flexibility and organization in the test and control group pre-test ( $P > 0.05$ ). The mean of these pre-test scores in both groups was not statistically significant. However, there was a significant difference in the post-test scores with regard to the significant level of behavioral inhibition scores and organization of the experimental and control groups ( $P < 0.05$ ). The mean of these scores in the experimental and control groups was statistically significant and in the experimental group more than the control group. However, there was no significant difference between the scores of post-test, infertility, short-term memory and flexibility in both groups ( $P > 0.05$ ). And the average of these scores is not statistically different.

Conclusion: Drug therapy is effective in improving behavioral inhibition and organization in patients with obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Key words: Drug therapy, Operative functions, Obsessive compulsive disorder